

Raise the Ruffa, 'the show biz Imelda'

UAAP bans La Salle team official from the games for life



Aga displays fine thespic form in romantic tearjerker

Conservative John Roberts takes oath as US' 17th chief justice

46 retired officers rally behind defiant general

By Editor C. Tando Jr. and Fe Zamora

A GROUP OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, including ones involved in previous coup attempts, rallied behind an embattled general and a colonel who defied President Arroyo's orders, and instead of growing weaker...

ALBERTO DIAZ

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

Pagcor funding bright kids, but do they have a choice?

By Tereza Gracia

Pagcor's social responsibility program is a good thing. But the government's "Pagcor Child" program is more about gambling income...



RETURN TO ANCESTRAL ROOTS: President Arroyo recalls her family members, Liza Araneta Arroyo and Ben Arroyo, during the 35th founding anniversary of the National Agrarian Reform (NAR) (Founders of NAR) at the Palace on Friday. (Story on Page M2)

Crame meeting sparks coup fears

By Liza A. del Puerto and Elizabeth L. Sarmiento

TOP POLICE OFFICIALS gathered to discuss a possible coup attempt in a meeting with President Arroyo's top aide, which sparked fears of a military takeover...

Facing a renewed challenge in her role, she has to put off the launch of a vital transport project in Sierra Madre as she could meet with the leaders of the Philippine National Police...

The government's meeting at Camp Crame spooked the local stock market, causing it to fall by 30 points...

Stocks fell after the latest day's work as investors changed their views, triggered by the meeting between the President and her top aides...

Investors immediately reacted to the news that she had ordered the military to be ready to take over the government in the event of a coup attempt...

The breakdown: Philippine

Cory hacienda deal scrapped

Land reform council led by GMA to have final say

By Marissa S. Rivera

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED DECISION, the Department of Agrarian Reform yesterday canceled the 16-year-old stock distribution option agreement of Hacienda Luisita, paving the way for the distribution to farmers of the nearly 5,000-hectare agricultural estate of the family of former President Corason Aquino...

This is the first time that the government has canceled a stock distribution agreement between farm workers and landowners since the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program started in 1988...

The 16-year-old deal was a legal way to transfer the 5,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita to the family of the late President Corason Aquino. The deal was signed in 1992...

The deal was signed in 1992, when the Aquino family was still in power. It was a controversial move at the time...

Why President issued 464: To answer 'politics of insults'

By Christine O. Alameda and TJ Bugarin

SUFFERED BY CRITICISM EVEN FROM HIS own allies, President Macapagal Arroyo yesterday said the 464 law was issued to answer the "politics of insults"...

Speaking last Friday, two days after he issued the controversial order, the President said his opponents "insulted" the law...

"I have not put my hand down for the sake of the people, for the sake of enabling the government to move faster than the shadows of the politics of insult," he said...

For Isabella Ramos, who comments on national news in her column "Isabella's View" in the Philippine Star...

PHILIPPINE STAR

Ombudsman quits, cites health reasons

By Marissa S. Rivera

THE COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, Ombudsman Conchita Aquino, resigned yesterday, citing health reasons...

AQUINO, who has been in the job since 2001, said she was suffering from a chronic condition...

Her resignation was effective immediately. She was replaced by...

Her resignation was effective immediately. She was replaced by...

PHILIPPINE STAR

Defense chief denies part in writing EO

By Denis E. Pazzagano

DEFENSE SECRETARY ARNELDO CRISTO said he played no role in writing the controversial gag order that legal experts and human rights groups have denounced as unconstitutional...

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Department of National Defense, Cristo...

was "convinced" but did not prepare the draft of Executive Order No. 148, which bans...

PHILIPPINE STAR

Legal Council themselves. Cristo and his lawyers said...

The private secretary stated that he did not play a role in writing the order to challenge its legality...

PHILIPPINE STAR

DRIVE VS TAX EVASION Goma first show biz 'big fish' charged

By Kenneth H. Norcia

ACTRESS RICHARD GOMEE, 35, is the first show biz "big fish" to be charged with tax evasion...

In a 21-page complaint, Asst. Prosecutor Ericson L. Linao charged Gomee with tax evasion...

for which he is being charged. "Gomee was not an ordinary actor but a successful show biz star..."



RICHARD GOME: The actor is the first show biz "big fish" to be charged with tax evasion. (Story on Page M2)

PROPERTY

Can you really afford to buy your dream home?

By Thom R. Salazar

MANY PEOPLE MIGHT like to buy their dream house but only a few can pay cash. The good news is that there are a slew of payment options these days when it comes to prospective house buyers.

If you ask expert house brokers, they would tell you enough that you have to depend on the availability of affordable financing programs and being qualified to borrow.

Rodrigo Brando Estrada S. Cruz of United Realty Brokers and Associates Network (URBAN) advises people that although there are numerous private, traditional and government-subsidized housing loan programs, one should beware of the pros and cons of each loan alternative to be able to choose a financing program that would suit the buyer and the capacity to pay.

Cruz said there are ways to avoid the

common mistakes of borrowing and avoid the unpleasant event of being cheated or worse, experiencing delays and being late-paying or late-paying and getting caught in the issue of installment financing.

Securing a housing loan

During his lecture to prospective house buyers, Cruz outlined the following steps in securing a housing loan:

- Making as much as possible the highest down payment you can afford. Cruz said the higher the down payment, the lower is the interest rate. The less your down payment will be, the higher the interest.

- Before applying for the loan, look long-term debt and have a good paying record.

- Be sure that the property you are purchasing is really worth much more than the loan.

- Borrowers with good credit are in excellent negotiating position because banks are often lenient with good credit standing.

"If you have credit problems, take the steps to clean up or rebuild your credit



before, not after, you apply for a mortgage," he said.

- Gather information on mortgage rates and terms. This is very essential.

- Get the services of a loan broker.

"Another approach in looking for a loan after doing your preliminary work is to hire a loan broker, a person who specializes in matching house buyers and appropriate mortgage lenders. If you qualify financially, a loan broker can find you a comparatively priced mortgage that meets your needs," said Cruz.

He added that loan brokers usually are licensed real estate brokers. They often don't charge for their services, as they're paid by the lender for preparing routine loan applications.

"If your situation is somewhat compli-

cated, for example, you need help selling your property before you start purchasing, you may be charged a fee. If it is not worth it, you may be charged if you're charged, and if so, how much will be charged," he said.

Options

IRA Philippine consultant firm that operates deal with the highly competitive real estate market in the country today, house buyers are presented with a wide range of payment options designed for your different needs.

Samson, added, that one's decision should first be based on what one can afford, now and in the future.

"Consider all the changes that come with purchasing a real estate prop-

erty—taxes, documentary stamps and other miscellaneous expenses," he said.

Samson recommended payment options such as down payment with low monthly installments. He added that lucky are those who have saved up some money because they can choose this option with the advantage of lower monthly amortization and shorter terms.

For first buyers who currently have the capacity to make substantial monthly payments but who do not have the savings or would rather put their savings to other more pressing requirements, the way to go is payment options without down payment. In this scheme, no substantial cash outlay is required.

Another option is the lease-to-own scheme for buyers who prefer to pay the market rental prices and would rather do so by the longer payments in a lease than "to the cash," he said. "In lease-to-own, down payment is required while monthly rates for the next two years are applied."

The homebuyers can also choose an to-be-lease financing by developer-owned property. Samson said this type of scheme has less rigid requirements and may offer fixed interest rates for an extended period of time.

"You can also secure funds from any of the country's financial institutions usually requiring 30 percent equity for the property. These institutions often offer longer payment periods as well as highly competitive interest rates," he said.

Both financing and financing through way-out agencies could be Government Business Insurance System, Pag-IBIG Fund and the Rural Livelihood System.

The WORLD

Lidia Lavezzola B. Gutera

Car bomb attacks on Iraq's Shiite cities kill over 100

HEILA, IRAQ—A CAR BOMB KILLED 10 PEOPLE Friday in a busy Iraqi vegetable market, the latest in a string of attacks on Shiite targets following a declaration of all-out war on the community by al-Qaida.

The blast in Heila, 100 kilometers south of Baghdad, also left at least 33 people wounded. It came a day after 49 dead and 123 wounded in three car bombs at a police station in the Shiite town of Hilla, south of the capital.

There has been a growing number of attacks on Shiite targets, apparently led by al-Qaida leaders in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who declared war on the entire Shiite population on Feb. 14. The attack in Heila involved "a Mercedes car which was detonated by remote control in the vegetable market," police said.

The blast at several other car bombings, targeted a shopping place and a house during street clashes in also

leaves to have Shiite politicians and businessmen.

The dead included at least 20 women and 22 children, said U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Paul Bremer. Iraq has announced daily attacks in the run-up to an Oct. 15 election, with an end to a draft constitution, with 12 President George W. Bush warning of the likelihood of even more violence ahead of the poll.

"In these circumstances, we can expect there will be increasing violence from the terrorists," Bush said earlier this week.

But he insisted that US troops were ready, and would not be "retreated" should the "hush of Baghdad."

"The strategy is clear to Iraq. We are looking down high-velocity rockets," Bush said, highlighting the killing of Abu Azzam earlier this week, when the US military and



AN IRAQI man in uniform after being killed in a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Sept. 25.

Iraqi government and war aircraft killed scores in the country. In Baghdad on Thursday, an al-Qaida commander in Iraq said the insurgency they would even if the constitution is approved.

General George Casey said plans to send 200 US troops over the next

year will depend heavily on the outcome of the political process and that insurgents were expected to use all opportunities.

When asked by the House Armed Services Committee whether the situation could worsen in Iraq if the constitution were approved by a large Shiite "no" vote, Casey said, "I think that's extremely possible."

"We've looked at this, we've looked at the constitution to be a national compact. The perspective is that it will be."

The draft constitution was approved by parliament in late August and a law simultaneously was submitted to the Iraqi parliament. For Sunni Arabs, the draft constitution was a double-edged sword. It would allow them to participate in the political process, but it would also mean they would be subject to the same laws as the majority Shiite population.

"This is a draft. It will change. It will be changed sometime before Oct. 15," he said.



USPHOTO Court justice John Paul Stevens serves in the White House. John Roberts is the 11th chief justice of the United States since 1955.

Conservative Roberts named US chief justice

WASHINGTON—JESSE H. ROBERTS, President George W. Bush's choice for chief justice of the Supreme Court, won Senate approval and was sworn in Thursday in a ceremony which he will shape American life for years to come.

Roberts, 36, a conservative Catholic appellate judge, was named to the 11th chief justice by 78 votes in 52 from among senators in the day by the longest serving Supreme Court Justice, John Paul Stevens, at a White House ceremony.

The youngest chief justice in 200 years, Roberts took office with many Bush supporters hoping he will curtail conservative decisions. Roberts, a Catholic, who died of a heart attack in 1995.

Attorney will serve as chief justice in 2005, and will serve as a replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a judge who could prove more conservative, she is viewed as a moderate swing vote on the court. AFP



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Town pest wins lottery, is now more of a pest

By Sarah Lyall

UNRAVELING, ENGLAND—BRIEFLY FORGOTTEN by Thomas Carroll, who disappeared 10 years ago, the 32-year-old Michael Carroll is back in the town of his birth.

Carroll, who did not respond to messages left at his home, has proved one winning bet for his town: he has won the lottery. He has won the lottery, the only one of his kind in the town, and he has won the lottery.

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46 retired officers rally behind defiant general

By Ben Francisco
Brig. Gen. Francisco Guadalupe and Lt. Col. Alexander Balzano have secured the loyalty of their subordinates, including their Commanders in Chief, but they were the backing of 46 retired officers, including several generals, who signed a declaration of support for the pair.

"It is because no one of them can simply support General Guadalupe and Colonel Balzano and all other military officers who shall come out and speak on the truth and uphold the much-needed reforms in the Armed Forces," the officers said in their declaration.

Guadalupe and Balzano have been removed of their posts and are facing court martial proceedings for defying an executive order forbidding senior government officials from appearing at non-constitutional functions without the consent of the Senate.

In their manifesto not to support the retired officers said that the new military officers did not "the highest form of patriotism and courage" and a "moral and honorable act that is worth mending."

Moral cowardly

Guadalupe and Balzano are the AFP leadership in "new support to the highest call of moral judgment and nobility."

Guadalupe and Balzano will be able to find the support of the military officers in the AFP, Senate President Franklin Drilon said. He said that the officers would be able to find the support of the military officers in the AFP, Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

The group, belonging to the United National Front Alliance and Senior Officers, issued a statement after a closed-door meeting in Club Filinvest last night.

Among those who attended were retired Gen. Amelio Guerrero, former AFP chief of staff and senior defense aide Joseph Estrada, former Defense Secretary and former AFP chief of staff, and Commander Ben Sison, who had been linked to a previous coup attempt against civilian President Marcos that led to the EDSA People's Revolution in 1986.

Law of moral imperative

Balzano said he and the other officers were invited to the meeting "to discuss moral issues," referring to the ouster of Guadalupe and Balzano.

He said that while he supported the imposition of military procedures against



Retired officers rally behind Gen. Guadalupe and Col. Balzano. They are against the removal of support for the retired officers. At the show of support for Guadalupe and Balzano, among the retired officers are from left: Angel Baling, head of the AFP, and Ben Sison.

Guadalupe and Balzano, they were not willing to support the removal of support for the retired officers. They were not willing to support the removal of support for the retired officers.

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Restlessness growing

Their words and their actions were not enough to support the removal of support for the retired officers. They were not willing to support the removal of support for the retired officers.

Guadalupe and Balzano were not willing to support the removal of support for the retired officers. They were not willing to support the removal of support for the retired officers.

Gudani flag still up at PMA; no cadets walkout

By Rowena Calaver

Manila (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

THE PMA (Philippine Military Academy) has not been informed of the ouster of Gen. Guadalupe and Col. Balzano, and no cadets have walked out of the academy.

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to "pull all" those who were not in the AFP during the 2004 election.

"I will tell my friends to support a military because of the fact that they are the ones who gave the nation the freedom to support the AFP during the 2004 election," said Guadalupe.

"I am going to stay in the AFP and I am going to stay in the AFP," said Guadalupe.

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Enslaving, selling to zoos and parks

Editor Jon Bonaguidi
Senior City Editor L. BonaguidiINQUIRER *Visaya*

Iloilo park breeds endangered hornbills

By Ma. Elena Lantigua
Lantigua, Iloilo

AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS of mating and nesting, two pairs of critically endangered hornbills have successfully laid in captivity at Iloilo's Conservation Park in Lantigua, Iloilo, producing three fledglings that are now the toast of conservation circles worldwide.

The captive breeding of the Nicotia-winked-billed hornbill (*Alcedo nicotia*), is said to be the first in the world, according to Liza Lantigua, director of Iloilo's Conservation Park.

A result of 19 years of experiment, it topped up hopes that the bird will be saved from extinction.

The 6-month-old fledglings were named Chery Mula and Lala, after President Marcos' daughters, first daughter Imelda and Michael's daughter and Iloilo's first lady, the president of West Visayas State University (WVSSU) that hosts the conservation park.

Lantigua said the young birds were so named because of their "superstar" parents' support to conservation work.

They could also see the offspring of Malagasy and Doro, while Mula's parents are Nene and Mafin.

The hornbill, locally known as *adunggan*, is found only in the remaining low-land elevation forests in Panay and Negros islands.

Critically endangered

A fully grown bird stands 40 centimeters and has a wingspan of about one and a half meters. The *adunggan* is one of the species that have been listed because of its highly prominent beak and unique as well as its deep black plumage.

It is also one of the most critically endangered species of hornbills in the world, eight of which is found in the Philippines.

The Mula's Iloilo nest and only first pair of the *adunggan* remain in the wild and are confined to the Central Visayas mountain range. Their number dropped to a critical level due to hunting and destruction of their habitat. Their loss is very serious because the *adunggan* and other hornbill species are seed dispersers and are important forest regeneration.

Lantigua and the two pairs of *adunggan* started breeding in the second week of December last year when the first bird chanced, which was the start of the dry season. Inside their huge hatching, the hornbills were provided with nest boxes resembling tree trunks with small openings.

Based up in the walls, the females and, later, the chicks were fed by the males through the holes. The young birds fledged or learned how to fly in July but they were still fed by their male parents, later by passing the food, sometimes regurgitated food, through their beaks.

Lantigua said it took 30 years before the conservation park successfully bred the hornbills because of the birds' characteristics. The females were fussy when it came to choosing a mate. The latter has to be caring to with stand the criticism of habitat destruction.

In the past, two male hornbills died during the breeding season because they grew weak from feeding their mates, when regurgitating food after was necessary.

This year's successful captive breeding was due to the care given to the size of nest boxes and ventilation, said Lantigua.

The nest boxes were bigger than the previous ones. The breeding pairs were also fed animal proteins, such as milk, eggs, insects and fruits, instead of chicks. They were also not disturbed by visitors.

Dancing the waltz

Lantigua also gave credit to Peral Magno-Jorda, a visiting ornithologist and professional bird keeper from the Czech Republic, who shared his expertise in captive breeding.

In fact, when Lantigua and Magno-Jorda learned that the *adunggan* pairs have successfully laid, they walked around the hatching, fed and attended. The celebration, however, will take place on Oct. 7 at the WVSSU.

The Iloilo Conservation Park was established in 1993 by a memorandum between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Malabon Inc. in Panay. It is located in the 10000-hectare campus of WVSSU College of Agriculture and Forestry in Lantigua, Iloilo.

The park hosts birds and animals rescued from pet trade and donated by collectors. It is also an education and research center that undertakes studies on endangered birds, forest and habitat effects, eventually restoring the animals released from the park.

Aside from *adunggan*, the Nicotia also hatched two birds—the captive breeding of Papan was also the only one and during the blue-colored, long-necked parrot (Pheasant *Chalcophaps indica*). Endemic to Panay and Negros islands, the parrot is also endangered due to loss of forest and lowland forest.

One young *adunggan*, in March it were also named after Iloilo politicians—Junior Gatchbasan, Mayor Aguirre (Antonio J.C. Pineda) (New President Order), Mayor (Gey, Mayor (Adelino Santiago), Arthur (Gey, Arthur (Adelino) and Fred (Iloilo Inc., New Tagay).

Lantigua said she hoped that the politicians, the politicians, will support conservation efforts as their nomination will ensure when released to the wild.

THE HORNBILL is found only in the remaining low-land elevation forests in Panay and Negros islands. (P. Lantigua)



Girl calls for help to heal hole in heart

By Hazel RVilla
Iloilo City

SIX-YEAR-OLD MAJAH RU since Hayskian is your typical little girl who loves to play house. She enjoys listening to Sarah Geronimo's songs and attending Sunday school.

This picture of a sprightly child with a bright future has her one talent—Majah, who is in Kinder 2 at the La Sta Christian Learning Center in Iloilo City, may not live long enough to enjoy much of her childhood unless the hole in her heart is sealed and the blood flow to her heart is restored to normal.

The drama attachment is a wide extra-ocular blood vessel joining the pulmonary artery to the aorta (main artery to the body). This connection allows blood to be diverted from the lungs into the aorta during fetal development

since the baby does not have the trail of her delivery. The drama attachment normally closes after birth.

In Majah's case, the drama attachment failed to close and as her enlarged heart is overworked while her lungs have still, further increasing its workload, according to her pediatrician, Dr. Doris Mervela.

There is still hope for Majah if the hole in her heart (Patent Ductus Arteriosus) is operated on as soon as possible, she said.

Majah's parents, Jesus Fort and Cindy Hayskian are in their early 30s and Majah is their only child, making the little girl's possible demise a painful one to just even think of.

An open heart surgery would cost about P200,000 and if it includes after-operation medicine, the Hayskian family would need P300,000 in all, said Dr. Mervela.

Majah's mother, Cindy, 32, works as a cashier at the Iloilo Greenfield Marketing Corp. while her father works part-

time at a logistics company in charge of stacking services and door-to-door delivery for Abnath Transport System Corp.

"We definitely can't afford it. All that we can afford is day-to-day expenses," said Cindy.

Living by faith

On top of her PCA, Majah also has Atrial Septal Defect (ASD), a congenital heart defect.

Mervela said that in fetal circulation there is normally an opening between the two aorta (the upper chambers of the heart) to allow blood to bypass the lungs. This opening normally closes about the time the baby is born. If the ASD is persistent, blood continues to flow from the left to the right aorta. This is called a drama.

In her echocardiography report dated Aug. 23, Mervela said Majah's ASD is not as severe compared to last year's and that it is the PCA which

needs immediate attention.

"We are living by faith and God's provisions. We are making life better and enjoyable for her. On Saturday, she plays in church and at home, she plays the piano," said Cindy.

Dr. Jesus del Rosario, a US-trained pediatrician specializing on children's heart problems at the Philippine General Hospital said a transcatheter device is the painless alternative procedure to open heart surgery.

The procedure would cost a little more than open heart surgery and spare the child from post-operation pain, said Del Rosario, an associate of the 2005 Top Crosswinding Young Men (TCYM) for pediatric cardiology.

"We have nothing but to trust God and obey what rings within our hearts," said the couple, who are requesting help from people who have money and kindness to spare. (Cindy can be contacted at 0920-2267555.)

Across the NATION
 National Editor Terry Norgaard
 1000 N. 1st St., Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55401
 612-338-1111
 Fax: 612-338-1112
 E-mail: terry.norgaard@tribune.com

Terror suspects our men, says MILF

COTACATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) yesterday said three of the four men arrested in North Cotacato on suspicion of being Jemaah Islamiyah members are actually members of the rebel group.

On Packeridge, a short drive from
making a little checklist at
Savory Management in Pigeon-
town opened him to friends. 20
Middletown, 20, Middletown,
20, 20 and Middletown, 20.

ing the black leaders' commitment to the cause. "I can see that they're serious about this," says a white leader with a cell phone in his hand—initially he is in the front row with cheering blacks in the background.

Upon reaching the village after McCain, Davidson offered his hand to an older man and moved to the roof of the vehicle.

It is customary in the rural areas to offer an embrace to the elders, and McCain did this on his way out. He and McCain did this on his way out. He and McCain did this on his way out.

At the Cheltenham, a spokesman announced the board and action of the time.

A. Smith, 1110, a white pastor had been invited to go to the capital. While Davidson was wearing another phone, a black pastor, with which he was going to call up the first phone to trigger the board, according to Jim Goss, Agapio's director, commander of the Army's anti-ethnic Division.

The 14,000, MLF spokesman said, and based on the MLF's own statistics, Davidson was a white pastor.

"I'm basically the black pastor,"

[illegible]

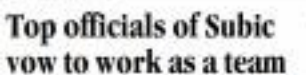
NPA vows justice as slain union head buried


[illegible][illegible]

Hundred Islands returns to Alaminos folk

[illegible][illegible]

RURAL TRANSPORT
Cubota-driven cabs are a familiar sight in rural areas such as this in Quebec's Gaspésie region in Eastern Ontario.

[illegible]

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Reyes-Manalo rules US pool pairs



REYES

NEW YORK, NEW YORK—FILIPINOS EFREN "Bata" Reyes and Marlon Manalo bagged the last seven racks to beat the pair of countryman Santos Sambojon and New Yorker Tony Robles, 11-5, Wednesday night in the 2005 New York City exhibition tandem match at the Amsterdam Billiard Hall here.

The championship victory was worth \$5,000 for Reyes and Manalo.

Sambojon and Robles failed to sustain a 4-0 lead and settled for the second prize of \$2,500.

"We got lucky," said Manalo in Filipino.

It was a big recovery for Reyes, who bowed out of the title race in the US Open 9-ball championships in Chesapeake, Virginia, recently. The event was won by FI-Canadian Alex Pagulayan at the expense of US-based Filipino Jose "Amang" Parica, who ousted Reyes in the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the week, Reyes started his recovery by trouncing Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 15-8, in a \$9,000 winner-take-all duel in New Jersey. Marlon Bernardino, contributor

RP's Basco stuns Aussie top seed

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SEVENTH SEED MICHAEL BASCO YIELDED four of the first six games but came charging back to stun top seed William McNamee of Australia yesterday and seize a semifinal berth in the second leg of the Philma-ITF junior tennis championships.

The 17-year-old Basco worked behind a strong service game and steady nerves to take 10 of the last 11 games for a 6-4, 6-1 humiliation of the heavily favored Australian at the Ynares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig.

Basco's surprise win duplicated the feat compatriot Pablo Olivera II who also eliminated McNamee in the semifinals of the world-ranking tournament's first leg last week at the same venue.

"I guess I was more mentally prepared than (McNamee)," said Basco, who fell by the wayside in the second round last week. "I refused to change my gameplan despite his lead in the first set."

Basco didn't blink despite McNamee's steady, aggressive play that gave the Australian a 4-2 lead in the first set.

McNamee said Basco forced him to play "extra ball" and took him out of his comfort zone all match long.

Basco's 75-minute victory—sealed with an ace—lined him up in the semifinals against third seed and last year's runner-up Nico Pietrangeli de Dios, who ousted Chinese Taipei's Chang Yu-chi, 6-0, 7-6 (3).

De Dios, ranked 536th in the world, is keen on giving Basco a good fight today.

"It will be a tough match," De Dios predicted. "Nico is patient and hardly makes errors."

The semifinal duel will showcase the products of two of the best tennis schools in the country.

Basco is a product of the Cebuana Lhuillier Tennis Team under former RP Davis Cupper Beeyong Sison, while De Dios comes from the Southwoods Tennis Academy of another former Cupper Manny Teson.

In the other end of the draw, second seed Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez easily defeated Indonesian Lenz Theodor, 6-2, 6-1, to gain a final four match opposite Japan's Yoshiya Sutuki, who overcame unranked Filipino Francis Casey Al-



cantara, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Unseeded Filipino Noelle NidoZ olara provided the drama in girls' play, scoring a shock 6-4, 6-4 win over elder sister Noelle Conchita.

Zolera marched into the semifinals against No. 7 Stephanie Vogt of Liechtenstein who rallied past Miao Yulyn of Taiwan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Second seed and first leg runner-up Katharina Negrin of Austria also booked her ticket to the next round via a resounding 6-0, 6-0 rout of Taiwanese Chen Mo Ying.

TOURNAMENT
favorite William McNamee smashes a job by Michael Basco in the third game of the first set. The Filipino rallied to shock the top seeded McNamee. *EDWIN LUNA*

Rotary Asian golf set in Shanghai

THE 10TH ASIAN TOURNAment OF THE Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Inc. (RGFFP) returns to Shanghai on Nov. 8-12.

RGFFP officials are discussing with HSBC officials the possibility of dovetailing the annual event with the HSBC Champions' Tournament in Shanghai.

The HSBC tourney is scheduled Nov. 10-13 with Tiger Woods and 20 of the best players in the world rankings participating. The RGFFP Shanghai golf package includes a chance to watch Tiger Woods in action.

Defending individual champions are Michael Tang of RC Bagumbayan, class A; Chito Reyes of RC Lipa South, class B; and Raul Molinas of RC Baguio, class C, while Rotary Club of Lipa South/Molo-Bolo is defending team titlist.

Last year's tourney was participated by members and guests from RC Bacolod-Marapian, RC Bagumbayan, RC Baguio, RC General Santos, RC Marina-Davao, RC Jaro-Bolo, RC Lipa South, RC Makati North, RC Makati Southwest, RC Makati

West, RC Molo-Bolo, RC Quezon City, RC San Juanico, RC Pasig, RC Tacloban and RC Bolo City.

GolfHolidays will again handle travel arrangements. For bookings, call 522-1495, 522-4089, or e-mail golfholidays@ceeres.com.ph.

For inquiries, call Pauline Sevilla (0920-9199000) or Leah Orsibar (0920-9087635) or the RGFFP secretary at 721.2667 local 110.



THE CHAMPIONSHIP SUPERBOWL
between defending champion John Lee of
Thailand and Aisling O'Sullivan and with Irish
Rory McLeod of Speerfield set to an
exciting climax today in the final event of
the 2000 Thai Amateur Superbowl Series
at the Saengkaew Nanyang Court.

But, at the rate he is going, the young *Stenopus* could still pull the egg from under (see down the wire).

hiding his soul as 100 points, on just 23 lb. blind Jaws (he had the chance to survive 6 events from Jan. but gave out before the last two rounds and he needed for us to stay strong).

Another main factor expected to be as price-packed as the Superdome race is the Ford Racing Championship where more than 100 riders are vying for a place in 1991.

The nine lowest defending champions will take up positions 271 to 310, today creating a 50% weight rise in the National Ballroom Association of Schools (120 kg) and Universities of the British Agricultural College Cup.

[illegible]

The 573 Champions, who jumped into that first change

Clare, failed to come up with a better game and lost to the Hawks, 75-55 in Game 1.

ICC, headed by Mr. Francisco Ingles, on the study plan of Amalino Saldaña and Francisco Saldaña. (1994, 1995, 1996).

Flamingo women from Puerto Real, Jeddah, competing again for the top position in the title of Miss of the "East" around is presented by Euro Page Inc. (RPI) in cooperation with the American Association of the Philippines at the end of the six-weeked series.

Stamps and Coasting with top honors in the inaugural race last Sept. 11 that drew a huge weekend crowd, including AAP general manager Monty Wilson and transporb's president.

It's possible the hunt season could this week end's close as expected to complete the entire season announced for the kickoff event.

"The turnout of participants and the public response during our inaugural race weekend are very encouraging," said James. "We'll have 30-35,000 cars arrive at the track."

Surveys used the HVI-expanded cover as the only legitimate covering for areas fully covered.

caused by the fall and the insufficient support by European policy-makers should give us just the reason as to why not racing competition is the

"With the AAF certification, we hope the American public and even the sponsors will now be enlightened as to which side will ultimately win the real threat of the West," he ex-

The six-week series will also be held at the Idaho International Raceway later this year. The PRCA races are being shown on 100 percent over-the-air HD on every Wednesday.

WORLD (IT) CHANGE AHEAD WITH Moodle College is the first of various, posting updated TEFL site in the UK Colleges on Universities Admissions Association. (The new's technical comments in the CIP go on). *More, Moodle.*

Mark Wiegman, at 5-foot-9 the smallest man on the team, led the Vikings' balanced attack with a game-high 11 points.

Cheney McCain and Ryan Ferguson backed up Adams with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Steve Colapinto had 20 points in the second

Scheduling Complaint: Philippine Maritime Institute (PMI) scheduled to host Trade College Course

former Olympic Gold Medalist, the league commissioner, said the top two teams after

the single round obstruction will advance to the next round.

The next four teams will dispute the remaining semifinals for the national No. 2 team ranking on the No. 6 squad and the No. 4 team fighting for the No. 3 seed.



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Here are more reasons why you shouldn't miss Digital Weekend:

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- Free software and other goodies
- Giveaway on products
- Live model photo
- Hardware products sale
- Giveaway: participating from 10:00 to 10:30pm
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Finance chief warns against deferring VAT law

Credit-rating firms say postponement will be 'unfortunate'

By Daniel L. Lujan

THE ENACTMENT OF AN "UNADULTERATED" version of the Reformed Value-Added Tax Law is crucial to prevent a further erosion of the country's credit ratings.

This was stressed by international credit-rating firms during their meetings with the country's economic managers in the Finance last week, Finance Secretary Margaret D. Teves said.

The credit ratings firm—along with foreign investors, multilateral institutions—were meeting in Manila.

By some standards it is perhaps the implementation of the controversial tax measure, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo's assurance that the new approach is key.

"They told me that this could be very unfortunate," Teves said in a telephone interview.

The country's credit rating is down in ability to repay foreign loans, and determine how much interest it will pay on those borrowings. Influential firms like

Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service rate the country's credit at "BBB" and "Baa2," respectively, both of which are one notch below the official cutoff for junk status.

Teves said risk about deferring the implementation of the anti-fraud VAT law "distracted" the international financial community.

Because of this, the Finance chief met with President Arroyo yesterday in a bid to make her

results in her support for the law, but suspensions of fiscal deficits.

Teves said his design outlines the quality of the situation.

"He told me, you won't lose any more of this," he said, referring to attempts by pro-administration lawmakers like Atty. Rep. Jery Natanda to postpone its implementation.

Earlier this week, the Arroyo met with House Reps and Senate

Committee chair Artilagosa, House Reps and Senate Committee chair Ralph G. Romo, and Presidential adviser on Political Affairs Antonio Claudio to outline her support for the law.

On a consensus delay, however, Teves concluded that the government would be unable to meet the P28 billion revenue target from the VAT law this year.

"No less, we can cut about P6

(PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER)

RP's global competitiveness ranking slips

THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED TO LAG behind other countries in the battle to attract investments this year due to rising corruption, poor domestic infrastructure and an inefficient tax bureaucracy.

This was the conclusion of the World Economic Forum's latest global competitiveness ranking where the Philippines rank slipped a notch to 73 from a field of 117 countries.

The survey affirmed the country's position as the least attractive investment site among major emerging nations. Three ranked below Indonesia whose economy was ranked by the IMF last Asian financial crisis.

The ranking is the result of a survey among nearly 17,000 business leaders from 117 countries worldwide—the largest poll in the organization's history.

World economies and so-called "Five Asian Tigers" topped the global competitiveness rankings. Finland, mentioned in ranking as the most competitive country in the world for business, followed by the United States, Sweden, Denmark, Taiwan and Singapore.

Philippines has maintained its top rank as the most competitive country in the world for the last of the last five years.

Locally, the survey was administered by the Global Business Club, an influential civic organization, which has asked calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in the wake of poll fraud allegations.

MFC executive director (Global Business Club) said the organization has been preparing the local survey for the Forum, Switzerland-based World Economic Forum for "business rights to new years."

"The ranking over the years (that the Philippines' competitiveness ranking) is decreasing," he said.

Apart from corruption, poor infrastructure, and a bureaucratic system, low and uncertain wages during the country's "policy instability" as evidenced by frequent rule changes especially in terms of business contracts. Investors were also being deterred by government instability and rising criminality, he said.

The Philippines' competitiveness was badly

(PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER)

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

US DOLLAR
PESO: US DOLLAR RATE
P 46.01 = \$
 as of 10:00 AM, Sept. 30, 2005

EURO
PESO: EURO RATE
P 111.38 = €
 as of 10:00 AM, Sept. 30, 2005

GOLD: 470.640300
 per ounce Aug. 31, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSX COMPOSITE INDEX

(Source: Market Report on Page B2)

Stocks down 1.43%

While PSEI is down 1.43 percent today yesterday, ending lower for a third day amid persistent concerns over the political situation which still grips the regional markets, traders said.

Investors later increased their trade holdings in Congress investigations against President Macapagal-Arroyo that she stole

(PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER)

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Is Dove's latest campaign a celebration of real women or—gasp!—one plus-sized joke?

Equal opportunity beauty

WHILE barrel-
ing
down Edsa one
day, I became
momentarily
confused. There,
slap bang in the middle of
Guadalupe, somewhere
in between Kris Aquino's
omnipresent mug shots
and the stinky Pasig River,
I saw an ad starring an
unusual subject.

"Hey, it's Shamu!" I giddily
thought, referring to the way tal-
ented killer whale that enter-

*Age against
the machine*

Gino de la Paz



tained me as a child. Squinting
further, however, it hit me that it
wasn't Shamu from SeaWorld Or-
lando, Shamu from SeaWorld
San Diego, or Shamu period. (It
wasn't the cast of "The Sopranos"
either.) It was an interactive bill-
board for Dove soap. Hot dang.

After recognizing the awkward
silence that followed, one that let

